POST. I praised her as I rated her : so do I *my* stone.

LICIT. What do you esteem it at ?

Posy. More than the world enjoys.

IACH. Either your unparagoned mistress is dead^ or she's outprized by a trifle.

POST. You are mistaken : the one may be sold, or given ; if there were [8] wealth enough for the purchase, or merit for the gift: the other is not a thing for sale, and only the gift of the gods.

JACH. Which the gods have given you ?

POST. Which, by their graces, I will keep.

*IACH** You may wear her in title yours : but, you know, strange fowl light upon neighbouring ponds. Your ring may be stolen too: so, of* your brace of unprizeable estimations, the one is but frail, and the other casual; a cunning thief, or a that-way-accomplished courtier, would hazard the winning both of first and last.

POST. Your Italy contains none so accomplished a courtier, to convince the honour of my mistress[9]; if, in the holding or loss of that, you term her frail. I do nothing doubt, you have store of thieves; notwithstanding I fear not my ring.

* First folio omits *of.*

The reader who wishes to know more on this subject, may consult a note in Mr. Malone's edit. [1790] vol. viii. p. 327, 328, and 329. STEEVENS.

As Mr. Steevens has withdrawn his former opinion with regard to this passage, I have not inserted Mr. Malone's reply here, but, as it has been referred to, have given it at the end of the play.

BOSWELL.

8 — If there were —] Old copy—or if—for *iht purchases,* &c. the compositor having inadvertently repeated the word—or, which has just occurred. ThecorrectionwasmadebyMr.Rowe. MALONE/.

9 —to CONVINCE the honour of my distress ;] *Convince,* for *overcome.* WARBURTON,

So, in Macbeth:

; «------their malady *convinces*
"The great essay of art." JOHNSON^